efficiency. Such instances are also not wanting. It is just to request the Government that seniority may not be the only consideration for them in the matter of appointments to such responsible places and not for opposing the retention of the Additional court for the remaining period of the year that I have tabled this motion. Since all the facts that are necessary for a proper discussion of this motion are not made available by the Government in answer to some of my questions, I do not press this motion just now.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I beg to make a personal statement. The House will remember that on Monday during the discussion on this subject I made a statement that one vakil who played a prominent part in connection with the transfer of the Munsiff has been convicted by the Court. I have made further enquiries in the matter and though I am morally correct I am legally wrong. The statement is not absolutely true. The foresighted vakil turned to King's evidence and he was left off. I apologise to this House for that statement and I hope that this expression of my regret will be accepted by this House.

President.—You don't press your motion?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I don't move it.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,131, Law and Justice by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—On the other cut motion I wish to get information on some points. May I know when the transfer of the Munsiff was recommended by the Chief Court?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The transfer was recommended on 12th Vrischigam 1107 corresponding to 28th November 1931.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I also know when the Diwan forwarded his recommendation to His Highness?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—On 2nd December 1931.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I do not wish to move that motion.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried.

(2) 28. Public Works—Rs. 29,000.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon —Sir, I rise to move an additional allotment of Rs. 29,000 under 28 Public Works, Mechanical. This is to cover the charges for metering the service connections in Ernakulam in accordance with the orders

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

passed on the Meter Committee's Report. 671 connections have to be metered and 79 meters have also been ordered for the metering of connections to be laid hereafter. The cost will be recovered from the house owners by monthly instalments of 0—4—6. This is the concession extended by the Government when they passed orders on the Committee's report. The number of meters to be ordered by the Government was not ascertained when the budget was passed and hence no provision was made. Transfer from other heads is also not possible. I request therefore that the House may be pleased to sanction the additional allotment applied for.

Motion No. 1

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,000 under Public works by Re 1.*

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഒന്നു രണ്ടു വിവരങ്ങളും അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം. ചേലക്കര, എളനാടു് റോഡിനു വേണ്ട acquisition എല്ലാം കഴിഞ്ഞോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—പഴയന്നൂർ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ എളനാടു് എന്നൊരു വില്ലേജുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിലാരും കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടാവില്ല. നാലുപുറവും കാടും മലയുമാണു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെത്തണമെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയമായും ആറു നാഴിക മല ചവിട്ടണം. ഇവിടെ ഗതാഗതത്തിനു് യാതൊരു സൌകര്യവുമില്ല. ൧൯൦൩മാണ്ടു മുതൽ ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി പല ശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. ചേലക്കരമുതൽ എളനാടുവരെ ഒരു റോഡിനു് ൧൯൨൫-ൽ sanction ആയി ൧൯൨൬-ലെ budget-ൽ അതിനായി ൫,൦൦൦ ഉറുപ്പിക യും കൊള്ളിച്ചു. പക്ഷേ പണിയൊന്നും നടക്കുകയുണ്ടായില്ലെന്നു മാത്രം. ൧൯൨൭-ലെ budget-ൽ യാതൊരു വർദ്ധനവുമുണ്ടായില്ല. ൧൯൨൮-ൽ ൧൦,൦൦൦ ഉറുപ്പിക budget-ൽ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ വളരെ സന്തോഷംതോന്നി. പിന്നെ ൧൯൨൯-ൽ അതു ൮൮,൦൦൦ ഉറുപ്പികയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചു കണ്ടു. എന്നാൽ ഇതു കാണലല്ലാതെ അവിടെ യാതൊന്നുമില്ല. ഇതിനിടക്കു ൧൯൨൮-ൽ ൫,൦൦൦ ക. യും, ൧൯൨൯-ൽ ൫,൦൦൦ ക. യും ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. തിങ്കളാഴ്ചയിലത്തെ ചോദ്യോത്തരങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ൬ നാഴിക ദൂരം വഴിയാണു് അവശേഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നും, ഇപ്പോൾ ൬ നാഴികയോളമാണു് പണി കഴിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നും തെളിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിന്റെ അച്ചടി ഞാൻ വായിക്കാം. "Why was the work postponed?—For want of funds.—When will the Chelakkara—Vaniampara road be taken up and completed?—When funds became available." ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ഇങ്ങനെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പറയുന്നതു കേൾക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇനി വല്ല പണിയും അവിടെ നടക്കേണമെങ്കിൽ വല്ല നിധിയെ മറ്റോ കിട്ടേണമെന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു. എളനാട്ട് റോഡിന്റെ അത്യാവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറയാനൊന്നുമില്ല. ഞാൻ ക ക ൩-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ആദ്യമായി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതുതന്നെ ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് എന്നിട്ടോ? ക ക ൦ ൨ മുതൽ ക ക ൦ ൬ വരെയായി ൬ നാഴിക വഴി നാട്ടുദേശത്തിൽ തുറന്നുവെച്ചു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമായിട്ടില്ല.

ക ക ൦ ൬ -ലേക്കുള്ള budget -ൽ ഒന്നും കാണാഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ Chief Engineer അവർകളോടു് ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി സംസാരിച്ചു. അപ്പോൾ ചേലിക്കര നിന്നു കരുകക്കടവുവരെ വടക്കോട്ടു ഒരു വഴിയുണ്ടാക്കുവാനായി ൫,൦൦൦ ക. ഈ കൊല്ലം ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ വഴിക്കു സംഖ്യ ഇല്ലാതെപോയതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. അതിനു ക ക ൦ ൨-ലെ budget-ൽ ൪,൦൦൦, ക ക ൦൩ -ൽ ൫,൦൦൦ ഇങ്ങിനെ സംഖ്യകളനുവദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുതുടങ്ങി. മറ്റേ രീതിയിൽ ഇനി പണിതുടങ്ങണമെങ്കിൽ വൃ കൊല്ലത്തോളം വേണമല്ലൊ! തുടങ്ങാത്ത റോഡു് കിടക്കട്ടെ എന്നും, തുടങ്ങിയതു മുഴുവനാക്കുകയാണാവശ്യമെന്നും പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേയ്ക്കു് എഴുതാമെന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചു. പിന്നീടു ഇതുവരെ യാതൊരു നടപടിയും കണ്ടില്ല. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറയാം. അവിടത്തുകാരുടെ ഇണത്തിനായി ഖജനാവിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന ഒരു പൈ പോലും ചിലവാക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ അവിടെ നിന്നു നികുതിയായി ധാരാളം പിരിവു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനുണ്ടാകുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. ആ നാട്ടിലേയ്ക്കു് പോലീസുകാർ ബിറ്റു് പോകുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നും മറ്റും പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു ഒരു ചിലവായി കണക്കാക്കുവാൻ തരമില്ല. അഞ്ചൽക്കാരന്റെ ദയവുകൊണ്ടു് ഹൃദിവസം കൂടുമ്പോൾ കഷ്ടിച്ചു എഴുത്തുകൾ അവിടെ എത്തിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവിടേയ്ക്കു ഒരു rural dispensary പോലുമില്ല. ദിനക്കൊക്കു നാട്ടുപുറത്തെയ്ക്കു പോകണമെങ്കിൽ മനുഷ്യർ ചുമന്നുതന്നെ കൊണ്ടുപോകണം. അവിടെ ആസ്പത്രിയും വേണ്ട, പൊലീസു സ്റ്റേഷനും വേണ്ട! പക്ഷെ നാട്ടുപുറത്തുള്ള റോഡിലേയ്ക്കു എത്തിച്ചേരുന്നതിനെങ്കിലും ഒരു റോഡില്ലാതെ തരമില്ല ഇതു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടറിഞ്ഞിരുന്നിട്ടും ഈ പണി മുഴുവനാക്കുവാൻ യാതൊരു സംഖ്യയും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർക്കാത്തതിന്റെ സാരം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കണക്കെങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ ൫,൦൦൦ -ത്തിൽ തുടങ്ങി ക ൪, ക ൫ ആയിരംവരെ കേറും, പിന്നെ ക്രമേണ ൫ -ൽതന്നെ എത്തും. പിന്നെ ഒരു nil-ഒരു കേറ്റത്തിനു് ഒരിറക്കം. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ -nilൽഎത്തീട്ടുണ്ടെല്ലൊ. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു മേല്പോട്ടുകയറിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നൊരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്. ഗവമ്മേൻറിൽ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നിന്നു ഇതിലേയ്ക്ക് ഒരു സംഖ്യയും ചിലവാക്കുവാൻ ഭാവമില്ലെങ്കിൽ, പുതിയ റോഡിനു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയെങ്കിലുമെടുത്തു ഈ റോഡുപണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കിത്തരണം. ഗവർമ്മേൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ Conservator ഒഴിച്ചു മറ്റാരും ആ ദിക്കുതന്നെ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടാവില്ല. എൻറെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽതന്നെ ഒരുപണിക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ മറ്റൊന്നിനു മാറ്റണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു തെറ്റാണെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിയ്ക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു തെറ്റു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ ഞാൻ ജനങ്ങളോടപേക്ഷിച്ചു സമാധാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം. ഈ കാര്യം അത്ര അത്യാവശ്യമാകയാൽ ഏതുതരത്തിലും ഇതു നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു് അപേക്ഷിപ്പാൻവേണ്ടിയാണു് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—On a point of information. Of this Rs. 29,000 about 9,000 go for installation. May I know the details of the remaining Rs. 20,000. The explanatory note says that Rs. 19,875 is towards the cost of meters, that is to say the cost of a meter is about Rs. 26—8—0.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—750 meters are to be installed. The cost of 750 meters will be Rs. 19,875, i. e., at the rate of Rs. 26—8—0 per meter. The meters require chambers and these will cost Rs. 10 each. The expenditure for that will be Rs. 7,500. Then to do the works connected with metering the cost will be about Rs. 300. For contingencies on actuals I have provided a sum of Rs. 1,300. This will make the sum Rs. 29,000.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Thank you. May I know whether the cost of these articles has increased on account of the increase in duty. I want to know whether the present cost is in excess of what it was last year before the extra duty that was imposed by the Government of India.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is a little less than what it was last year. I don't think there will be any increase.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—On a point of information, Sir. Was it not estimated on former occasions that the cost of a meter will be about Rs. 40.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The cost of installation of a meter was roughly estimated at Rs. 40.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Have you got quotations to show that the cost of a meter is Rs. 26—8—0.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have got quotations.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Do these quotations refer to h arges before the imposition of the duty or afterwards? I ask

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

this question because I have information that when enquiries were made about the pump after the imposition of the duty, what was sold for Rs. 490 is sold at Rs. 535. That is why I put the question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—These quotations were got two or three months ago before the imposition of the new duty. Even if the cost has increased we can meet the same from contingencies provided in the estimate.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I do not know whether there is any special urgency that these 750 meters should be purchased in this year of financial depression. Why should we go in for all these 750 meters this year.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The decision of the Government in this matter is to meter all the connections. 671 meters are for the existing connections and 79 for the future.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce all these 750 meters this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Thank you.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I rise to support the contention raised by the Hon'ble Member for Pazhayannur. I had occasions to visit that place in my capacity as a medical practitioner. What the Hon'ble Member said is practically true. A road to Elanad is highly necessary and those who know the place properly will endorse the suggestion brought forward by the Member. It is very deplorable that that part of the State is neglected.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The importance of the Chelakkara-Elanad road was recognised by the Government so long ago as 1101 and, the charge against this department is that the work was not done more expeditiously. I may state and it is within the knowledge of all Hon'ble Members here that there is perhaps no road ever attempted in this State which had not some delay on account of different petitions and counter-petitions for changing the alignment. In this case as the Member has suggested there were a large number of persons who wanted the road from Pazhayannur to Elanad and an equally large number who claimed that the road should be from Chelakkarato Karakadavu.Enquiries were again made and the latteralignment was finally decided upon. These enquiries took time and the progress of the work were considerably retarded by these petitions. In 1105 the alignment was fixed and in the year 1106 we have spent 18 thousand rupees which shows that this department is not at all slow in executing the work, if left unmolested Unfortunately it was not possible to make provision in the budget for Chelakkara-Elanad road for 1107.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Now the suggestion of the Member is to divert the provision made for the Chelakara Karakadavu road for this. Of course personally I think that Chelakara Elanad road is more important than the Chelakara Karakadavu road and so the Government will consider the point raised by the Hon'ble Member.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഞാൻ എന്തൊക്കെപ്പറഞ്ഞാലും ശവമ്മെണ്ടു എല്ലാം ആലോചിക്കാമെന്നു മാത്രമെ മറുപടി പറയുള്ളു എന്നെനിക്കറിയാം. എങ്കിലും ഒന്നുകൂടി പറഞ്ഞുനോക്കാമെന്നെയുള്ളു. ഈ കരുക്കടവു റോഡിനുള്ള സംഖ്യ എടുക്കുവാനൊ പുതിയതായി ചിലവാക്കുവാനൊ തരമില്ലെന്നു വരുന്നപക്ഷം ഫ ഫ 0 വു ലേക്കെങ്കിലും മൻക്കൂട്ടിക്കണ്ടു" ഒരു സംഖ്യ ഇതിനു സംഗ്രഹിച്ചു ഈ റോഡുവേല തീർത്തുതരേണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ ചിൻവലിപ്പാൻ അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—The house-holder is charged Rs. 0—4—6 per month on the caculation that the price of the meter would be Rs. 40. I want to know whether the Government will reduce that rate if the meter costs a little less ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The cost of installing a meter is estimated at Rs. 40 including contingent charges,

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—It is for the house owner to meet the contingent charges.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That includes all the charges.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—All the charges.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I am constrained to oppose this motion.

President.—There is no motion.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29, 000 under Public Works by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, this cut motion is tabled to bring before the attention of the Government the extreme necessity that exists for completing a work that was partly executed by the Department of Public Works so long ago as 1104 or 1105. I represent a constituency which consists of 30 big villages lying on all the three sides of the Trichur Town. When I went round all the villages, although various items of urgent works were brought to my notice by the people, I was surprised to find that this small road of about 3 miles was not completed by the Government. The present Kottekkat road branches off from Viyyur on the Shoranur—Trichur road and runs a distance of bout 3 miles. Then it stops. About a mile and a half from

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the terminus of this Kottekkat road runs the road connecting Trichur with Kunnamkulam. I was told by the inhabitants of 4 of these 30 villages, *viz.*, Kuttur-at least the Diwan Peishkar, the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, may know of these villages- Avanur, Peramangalam, and Choolisseri, these four villages will be served by this road. The inhabitants told me that they were petitioning the Government from 1100 and the then Diwan was pleased to grant this road so long ago as 1102. As was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Pazhayannur the next process commenced from 1103, that is, show figures in the budget. Likewise in the 1103 budget an amount was shown and nothing was done. In 1104 budget another, perhaps a bigger amount was shown and nothing was done. In the 1105 budget an estimate for 9,000 rupees was shown part of which, namely 3,000 rupees was shown in the Preliminary budget to be utilised in the course of the year, that is, during the 3 or 4 days remaining in Karkadagam and 6,000 rupees to be utilised in 1105. I know nothing was done in 1104. But fortunately a portion of this road, a bridge and an embankment about midway in this alignment were actually executed in the year 1105. While the work was in progress, when somehow or other the inhabitants of the villages found that the whole amount need not be spent upon that part, and will not have to be spent upon that particular work, they petitioned to the Government in time and prayed that the savings from the estimated figures may be utilised fur completing or at least pushing on with the other portion of the road. But that was not done. With the present portion of the embankment and the bridge, there is something curious. It serves absolutely no purpose. It is as it were that if this road is not connected on the one side with the Kunnamkulam road and on the other side with the terminus of the Kottekkat road, the 6 thousand rupees spent by the Government is a sheer waste. That petition presented by the inhabitants in time to utilise the savings for pushing on with the remaining portion of the work was simply lodged. That is the usual method of dealing with such petitions. And curiously enough no provision was made in the budgets of 1106 and 1107. But with regard to the budget of 1107 I understand that provision was made for the remaining portion of this work in the Departmental budget and I know the reason will be advanced by the other side that owing to the present economic depression various cuts had to be effected in the D. P. W. budget. Unfortunately for the inhabitants of my constituency, one cut fell upon this item of the road. I do not blame anybody for the cuts. But I only pray through this motion that considering the urgency of the work the Government may be pleased to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

take up this work even this year by utilising the funds that will be available by the savings from the various items that are actually budgetted for. I know that every year there is a large amount of savings from the various items budgetted for. My prayer is that this work may be taken up this year. Before resuming my seat I must make one request to the Government. From the report of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee I am stated to have pressed for the completion of a work in the Talappalli Taluk, but I request that it may be rectified to a road in the Trichur Taluk.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I may first of all briefly dwell on the history of that road. It was generally understood that the work should be undertaken by the Panchayats, our department doing an embankment and a bridge. This proposal came up for serious consideration in 1103 and the progress of the work was, as usual, retarded by several petitions for change of the proposed alignment by interested parties. The one which we had selected was finally declared to be the best for all concerned. The moment this was decided on and the lands were given for us after acquisition we did not lose any time. The work was almost completed in 1104.

Government ordered late that the entire work should be done by us, but it was not possible to include this work in our budget for 1107. Now we have our estimates ready for the remaining works on this road and if sanctioned could complete the work in a short time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can I take it that provision will be made for this road in the 1108 budget.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Every effort will be made for the provision of it in the 1108 budget.

The motion was withdrawn with leave of the House.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,000 under Public Works by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—This relates to perhaps a similar thing as in the provious cut motion. But it rather affects a principle. I want to urge upon the Government the necessity for consulting the Departmental Heads who send up their departmental budgets before cuts are effected in the Huzur owing to various exigencies. I understand that this work mentioned in the previous cut would certainly have been retained in the preliminary budget and subsequently in the final budget if the Departmental Head concerned had been consulted before the various cuts in his budget were effected. The Departmental Heads concerned would be in a position to say which particular item could lie over and which to be taken up immediately. If

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

reference is made to any Departmental Heads I think the answer will come, that if they are also consulted—that is not the practice now—much of the additional grants could be avoided. Just to impress upon the Government the necessity for consulting them I have tabled this cut.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—By way of information, have the Heads of Departments been given a chance to make any remarks before the cutting of the budget by the Huzur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are generally consulted.

Dr. A.R. Menon.—Well, I am very glad that this was brought before this House, and I am equally glad that the Heads of Departments are consulted before a cut is actually effected, by the Huzur. I only request the Government that the same consideration may be extended to the Municipalities also. In the case of Municipalities, especially those which do not ask one pie from the Government that when a budget is submitted to the Government being passed by 21 people unanimously fulfilling the conditions laid down by the Government, it would be an act of courtesy to the Council to demand an explanation from them before the Government apply the pruning knife to their budget. To quote only one example of their mingling in matters of this kind, I may mention for the information of the House that there would be no fund for street-lighting in the Trichur Municipality for the last 3 months of this year. I would like to impress upon the Huzur that they would be more useful to us if they restrain their tenancy to meddle with our affairs a little. It is a pity that the opinion of 21 people elected by the people—should be over-ridden by the Government in an informal and careless manner. Such irresponsible interference with Municipal affairs does no good to us and reflects little credit to Government. I am very glad to hear from the Chief Engineer that all Heads of Departments are being consulted before a cut is effected. It it be so, I would also request the Government to extend the same courtesy to the Municipalities also before they extend their pruning knife to the Municipalities.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, before pressing this motion to a division, I would like to say one word. There was one bureaucratic word 'generally consulted' in the Government reply. I ask whether there is any special significance in that expression. There is a misgiving working in my mind that they are not consulted. I cite this piece of work as an instance. I do not think that the Chief Engineer had been consulted in making this cut upon this item of work; and if he had been consulted, I am sure that he would have suggested the cut on some

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

other work because the urgency of this work has been brought before him. In the light of these things I am sure that if he had been consulted—and I don't think that the Hon'ble Member for Engineering would say that he had been cousulted on this particular item at least he would not have allowed this cut. I doubt very much the veracity of this statement from the other side. There is a misgiving in my mind and I want to clear that. Probably, there was something. Here is a budget for 20 lakhs of rupees. The Government will not be in a position to spend 20 lakhs, so you adjust your budget and reduce it to 15 lakhs. So even the 15 lakhs could not be in the nature of a cut. I fear that cuts are made by the Huzur without consulting the Heads of Departments. If that is the fact, I want to press the motion to a division. Of course, if I can take it as an assurance from the Government that the departments are consulted as a matter of course in effecting the various cuts in the Huzur before sending out the preliminary budget, I don't wish to press the cut motion. Otherwise, I would like to press it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—When we send our departmental budgets we send an explanatory note with regard to the urgency and the desirability of including works in the budget and I know of many instances where the Government have asked me whether such and such a work should not be postponed or whether a certain work should not be taken up. That is why I said that we are "generally consulted". But I cannot say that they consult us on all the items in which modifications are made. But they can very well understand the nature of the urgency from the explanatory note.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—In the Public Works Department there cannot be a more competent and efficient man to advise the Government than the Chief Engineer. Will you please tell me whether in every case you are asked?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are two sides of the question, works broadly fall under two categories, the administrative and the technical sides. The request of providing for a certain work is purely administrative. Those which can be allowed or disallowed considering the financial aspects involved therein and other matters of a purely administrative nature and again those which if left undone would affect the stability of existing structures or would cause damage to property. The Diwan without consulting the technical expert can decide on the former class of works.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether in many departmental works provided for in the budget, are not some of them less important than the several items that are cut

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

off. Or to make it further clear, are there not included in the D. P. W budget items less important than the road which I just mentioned?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is purely a matter of opinion. I have not known of any instance where the Members in the Budget session have said that a certain item is more important than another.

The motion was put to votes and negatived.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. Our budget for the year is but nominally a surplus budget. We are passing through very difficult and distressing times. The demand made at present is a very large amount of Rs. 29,000. I say on grounds of public finance and also on grounds of inconvenience and hardship and the distress felt by the Ernakulam people as a whole, there is no urgency about attending to this matter this year. I may at once say that I am not opposed to the introduction of meters. My objection relates to the expenditure of this Rs. 29,000 this year. Of course, as the House knows, this has nothing to do whatever with the transhipment of water to the other side of the lake. It is purely an Ernakulam question, and so far as Ernakulamites are concerned, in spite of the distressing situation prevalent here, there has been a revision of the house-taxes and a proportionate increase in the Municipal house-taxes and also water cesses. That probably will work about 14 to 20 per cent of the original rate. Now, the only object of the demand is that we shall be able to put up 750 meters more and to supply a few more houses with water. I dond't believe that it will be possible to carry out this work in the course of 3 or 4 months. It will take a long time, so that this additional advantage derived by the citizens of Ernakulam by this heavy expenditure of Rs. 29,000 may enure for about 3 or 4 months at most. That itself is a matter of very serious doubt with me. So that under present conditions, I say it is not at all advisable that we grant this demand of Rs. 29,000. Now, so far as the people of Ernakulam are concerned, there is the supply already. The only question is whether to cater to the luxury of those who want more or cater to the present demands of a few more houses we should sanction this grant in the middle of the year now. Speaking for myself, I think this is a matter which ought very well to be left to the Municipality itself. This introduction of meters and the collection of the amount might usefully be handed over to the control of the Municipality. The necessary amount might be advanced to the Municipality as a loan and recovered from the Municipality by annual instalments.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I am sure that the Municipality will be able to manage the business at least 30 per cent less than these estimates. That has been our experience. First of all, there is no pressing necessity for the thing. Secondly on the ground that the conditions are such that any extra burden on the tax-payer should be avoided at this time of the year. Thirdly our surplus budget is going to be a deficit budget. And fourthly this matter can be better managed by the Municipality than the Engineering Department. On these various considerations, I don't think that there is any urgency for the grant of this Rs. 29,000 now. I am, therefore, of opinion that this House will be pleased not to sanction this amount.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I also wish to express the opinion that the time is not opportune for imposing this extra burden upon the tax-payer of Ernakulam. I am always afraid to speak anything with regard to Ernakulam because there are certain people, the highlanders as they were called yesterday by one of them. I am certainly a low-lander and especially when my friend the Hon'ble Member for Cheruthuruthy is here, I am afraid to speak anything in connection with the water-works of Ernakulam because the standing charge against Ernakulam people will be, according to him, that Ernakulam wants the luxury of a good water-supply but not willing to pay a pie for that. That charge, of course, I have refuted in time, and I don't wish to go over it now. I wish to advance one or two arguments which I borrow from the Government side. Many roads considered necessary and determined upon have been put off on account of finance. Why not apply the same principle to the poor tax-payers of Ernakulam? Once the meters are installed, certainly, the people will have to pay for the connection. They don't grudge the payment. But they grudge only the time at which the imposition is made. No doubt, if there is urgent and absolute necessity for metering even at the risk of trouble to the tax-payer, I will not be one to oppose this demand. Whether there is that absolute necessity at this critical time is the question for the House to consider. What I wish to point out is that there is no special necessity at *this time of the year* for the introduction of the meters. My friend, the Hon'ble Member for Trichur was saying that the benefit of this metering can be had only at the most for about 3 months in the year. I respectfully beg to differ from him. What I say is by the time the meters are installed, the monsoon would have set in. It is a known fact to the Engineering Member, that during the monsoon time, the consumption of Alwaye water is very very little. They have not to pump for more than 16 or 14 hours a day. Whereas

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in summer they have to work about 20 hours, sometimes even an hour or two more. What after all is the benefit that we are going to derive by installing these meters for the last 3 months of the year, when there is less consumption of Alwaye water as was said by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur. Then there is the other reason which is slightly hinted by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, namely, the quinquennial revision of house-taxes which also includes water-tax was effected in 1106 and therefore, the townsmen have been paying the increased tax to the extent of about 15 to 20 per cent for the year 1106 as well. Therefore, I wish to point out that this is not the time for additional expenditure to Government and also that no additional burden should be thrown upon the tax-payers of Ernakulam. There is the one point also which was touched by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, *viz.*, about the expediency of handing over this piece of work to the Municipality. I know what the answer will be from the other side, when any such proposition is mooted. Therefore, I don't want to emphasise it. But there is one aspect of it which I would like to emphasise, *viz.*, if it is done in accordance with the tendered rates instead of those prescribed, there will be considerable saving, so far as the tax-payer is concerned. If I may inform this House, I understand that there is a petition by the townsmen of Ernakulam to the Diwan that this arrangement of installing meters by the D. P. W. is entailing unnecessary expenditure and therefore some method should be found out by which the tax-payer should be free from the additional imposition. One instance, if I remember aright, pointed out in the petition is the supervision charges of 10 per cent upon the amount that is estimated upon the installation. A charge of 10 per cent upon the amount is added on to the cost which 10 per cent goes to the department. I do not know what additional labour is involved to the department in installing these meters. No doubt, the whole thing is done by contract, if I understand the situation correctly, and why that 10 per cent should be added by way of supervision charges to the department, one fails to understand.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That 10 per cent is not added on to the department.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Certain rules have been framed by which the cost includes the 10 per cent of supervision charges also. If it is deleted at least, there is 10 per cent gone. I do not know what is the additional burden cast upon the department so as to extract a special charge by way of supervision charges.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V.K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This 10 per cent supervision is not charged.

Mr. P.Krishna Menon.—If it is not charged, it is realised I know. I may point out there is difference between working by the department and working by other agency. There would be private tenders and work can be entrusted to them. But that is a minor point, so far as I am concerned in this proposition. I respectfully submit to this House that considering the general depression and considering also the fact that there has been the revision of the house-tax as well as the water-tax in the year 1106 and that is being realised not only in 1106 but also in 1107, the additional burden is not certainly a welcome thing so far as the townsmen of Ernakulam are concerned. Therefore I beg to oppose this motion.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know whether the extension of the pipes will be postponed if metering is also postponed ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It has to be postponed.

Mr. K Ayyappan.—Then I support the demand.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If that is the condition, I beg to withdraw my opposition. I don't want to deprive people of water.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു. കൂഴൽ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്ക് ഭാരമൊന്നുമില്ല. ഇല്ലാത്തവർക്കാണ് ഭാരം. തവണ അയിട്ട് കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാവരും അതിന്ന തയാറായിരിക്കും. കൂഴൽ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്ക് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ചിലവും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Why is it made conditional that it will be given only to those who instal meters ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It will be impossible otherwise to supply the demand in Ernakulam.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—In the same connection may I know, Sir, how much water is given to the ships in the Harbour and to the Railway.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We may say on an average but not the daily consumption.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—What is the average per month roughly. My point is Sir, that water was being supplied to these ships at the rate of Rs. 1—8—0 and Rs. 3 by private contractors. But the Government entered into an unfair competition with these private contractors and are now supplying at the rate of one rupee per thousand gallons. It is very unfair to compete with their private contractors. I understand that these steamers cannot get water in any other port at this rate and so

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

all of them take as much water as they can get from our port. I also understand that our Government is not able to make any appreciable gain out of this transaction. If that is so, I would support this cut motion and request the government to withdraw from this unfair competition and allow that water to be used by the suffering tax-payer at whose cost this great establishment has been built up. It is unjust to get this good drinking water all the way from Alwaye at an enormous cost and then to throw it in an unprofitable bargain with the foreigner while we are not in a position to meet with the increasing demand of the rate-payer.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I would not have interfered in this debate, but for the fact that my Hon'ble friend sitting in front of me was making a reference to me as though I was responsible for all the water troubles at Ernakulam. I have been charged with innumerable vices by many people at various times and I have got used to such attacks. This matter has been thoroughly investigated by the committee appointed by the Government and I have clearly stated in the supplementary minute that, if it be possible and feasible, this wretched water problem must be handed over to the Municipality itself for a solution. But there was a very serious objection raised by the P. W. D. that it would require the employment of technical experts and that the Municipality in its present financial condition is not in a position to engage men of expert knowledge, and technical experiencl. This is the only objection Government raised and I naturally could not meet that objection unless Ernakulam Municipality could come forward and say that they were in a position to shoulder the financial burden. The House should understand that the object of this metering is not merely to restrict water supply thereby causing trouble and discomfort to the well-to-do class of Ernakulam but to enoable the authorities to supply water as far as possible to all the people living in Ernakulam. The question was first raised in this Council by us not on our own interests but at the instance of the people living in Ernakulam, whose names I would, if you like, reveal, men occupying good positions, men who take a keen interest in public affairs, professors, lawyers, people of that type. They came and told us that they could not rely upon *i. e.*, those Members who are living in Ernakulam to take up their cause because they thought proposed restriction to the free supply of water would affect this luxurious supply of water these members are enjoying to day and as such their inclination will be to oppose any restriction proposed to be imposed. As the Chief Engineer just now pointed out, unless there is restriction in the supply of water now given to those who are already enjoying, there will not be sufficient quantity

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of water to those who are not for tunate enoughto have hydrants in their premises. This is a fight between those who have and those who have not. And naturally, we, the much abused northerners joined the have-nots. I think our position is clear and let me again assure for that it is not out of any desire to make mischief that we are raising this question over again. At the same time, I am bound to admit, that there is financial depression that the people living in rural areas, as well as in urban areas are put to great trouble so much so that the Trichur Municipality waived this right of collecting additional house taxes resulting from revision. And if this be the case with us though Ernakulam is the capital city, with plenty of money and rolling on wealth, yet I think the financial depression must be felt by them also. The problem reduces itself to this that meter is absolutely necessary, the present finanical burden of the people is also very great, and there must be some via media by which we may avoid increasing the financial burden at the same time achieve the object for which meter was proposed by the committee. What I would most respectfully suggest to the Government is that meter should be introduced forthwith. Of the instalment payment for fitting up the meter the collection may be delayed for a year or two or till better time supervenes. But surely the water may be collected. The collection of instalment payments for the meter alone need be delayed for a year or two. You must forthwith introduce the meter system becuse it is absolutely necessary to control the water supply. I should like the Government to consider this proposition. If they find no great objection in adopting this method, the problem may easily be solved to the satisfaction of almost all, except those who indulge in, shower bath, tub bath and using water for gardening purposes. To such men no argument will be of any use and we do not propose to offer any to them.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar.—I wish to support the motion and in doing so, I wish to answer the first point that was raised by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur. He opposed it on the ground that our budget will ultimately prove a deficit one and that there may not be sufficient funds. I think we have to look at this question from a different stand point. It is not exactly a question of spending money. It is more a question of investing money. The Government is not going to spend this money outright. They are going to collect it from the people for whose benefit they are going to instal the meter. So that argument will not avail. As regards the question of depression, we do not know what sort of depression we are going to get next year. We are not better off than we were 8 or 9 months ago. Under

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

these circumstances, there is no use of putting it off. With these words, I wish to support the motion.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't think I have much to add in this matter to what I have already said. This question of meter always comes for serious criticisms from a section of this House. If I remember aright, the first resolution in this Council was to the effect that meters should not be introduced and the Council passed it. The people were not satisfied. It came up again in 1929 and then this Council appointed a Committee. That Committee submitted its report in favour of metering. Government passed orders and this additional allotment is the result of that action. Meter must be installed in any case, if an equitable supply is to be extended to all the houses in Ernakulam. And if it is delayed by a month or two, still the condition is not going to be improved. It has got to come in any event, and a small sum of 4½ annas a month is not going to make any difference financially to the Ernakulam people. It is a very small item which will be in the power of any body who wishes to have or who can afford to have water service connection. So the proposition of the Government to instal meters on this basis will not work any hardship upon the people. And this House must also realise the handsome manner in which the Government has consented to adopt the suggestions of this Council for installing meters themselves for all house service connections. The Government have done all in their power to meet the wishes of the people in every respect. I beg therefore that this House may be pleased to grant the request for the installation of meters.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Government charges the Trichur Municipality with half the cost of the water works contemplated this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not think so. They don't however, give any concession for maintenance charges.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—That is not maintenance charge. Initial expenses.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Government pays the whole of it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are you sure ?.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon —They have so far met the whole capital cost.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Has the Government to say anything with regard to the postponement of the suggestion as suggested by the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have replied to that. They do not consider postponement desirable as the charges to be collected from the house owner is so small.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So there will be no collection, if there is no difference.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—To the house owner it will not really make any difference. But as a matter of finance it is wrong if no collection is made.

The Demand was then put and carried.

(3) Public Works—Cranganur—Rs. 1,770.

President.—The next is the Demand of Rs. 1,770 under Public Works, Cranganur.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,770 under 20—Public Works, Cranganur. This expenditure is found necessary to meet the acquisition charges for the work of improving the Lokamaleswaram canal. In the estimate for the work a provision of Rs. 2,500 had been made for land acquisition but the actual amount required for this purpose as per Diwan Peishkar's award comes to about Rs. 4,270. No re-appropriation is possible and hence I request the House will be pleased to sanction this additional allotment.

The Demand was put and carried.

Bill to amend the Cochin Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Regulation.

President.—The Law Member will move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Regulation be taken up and passed.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I rise to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Regulation be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation.

President.—The Law Member will move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096, be taken up and passed.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I rise to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096, be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Cochin Nambudiri Bill.

President.—Mr. A. Eachara Menon will move for leave to introduce "The Cochin Nambudiri Bill."

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